

From: Jesse Spears
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 7:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to you to protest the current proposed Settlement in the Microsoft Antitrust case.

Microsoft has shown time and time again that they will NOT compete fairly if allowed any leeway in how to do that. They will corrupt, twist, and abuse any loopholes given to them.

The current proposal does not go nearly far enough in establishing a fair and even playing field for Microsoft and their competitors. It essentially leaves Microsoft free to abuse their competitors as they have been doing for almost 20 years.

I will now quote a recent article from Salon.com, because the author says this better than I can:

There's no reason to think the Justice Department's proposed settlement will work any better than the consent decree of last decade did. And financial penalties can hardly wound a company that is sitting on a cash hoard of tens of billions of dollars. But intellectual property -- that's something Bill Gates and his team really care about. Requiring them to divulge some of it in order to restore competition in the software market might actually get them to change the way they operate.

With Microsoft's APIs and file formats fully standardized, documented and published, other software vendors could compete fairly -- which, after all, is what antitrust laws are supposed to promote. We might then be faced with a welcome but long unfamiliar sight: a healthy software market, driven, as today's processor market is, by genuine competition.

Please reconsider your current plan. It will not solve anything, or provide any relief or protection from Microsoft's heavy handed, anti-competitive practices.

Sincerely,
Jesse Spears
Austin, TX

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Jesse Spears
SpearSoft <<http://www.spearsoft.net>>

Harpoon3 info is at <<http://www.harpoon3.com>>

Harpoon3 is _currently_ only available for Macintosh computers

Tune in to my music broadcast at: 166.90.143.157:13288

Additional info at: <http://www.harpoon3.com/personal/mongos_music.html>
(now broadcasting 24/7 at 56kbps/22khz/stereo)

Jesse and Joyce's Homely page is at

<<http://www.harpoon3.com/personal/index.html>>

"Specialization is for Insects." -- Robert Heinlein

"You can't enslave a free man. The worst you can do is kill him."

-- Robert Heinlein